



GREATER NEWPORT
Chamber of Commerce

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Room 35, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

On behalf of the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, I write to urge passage of H-5223.

We are mindful that the 2021 legislative session is necessarily an abbreviated one, with fewer pieces of legislation being considered, but we believe passage of this bill is critical to the state's economic recovery, particularly as we consider a post Covid-19 emergence. The legislation as proposed provides the state with a \$250 million economic development plan, a guarantee of some 1,100 high paying jobs and the promise of an addition to Twin River Casino in Lincoln which, among other things, will allow for the employment of hundreds of construction jobs. This is extraordinary when you consider that many of the state's employers are reducing their workforce or closing altogether due to the pandemic.

As you are aware, the Tiverton Casino Hotel is within the service area of the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce. In its short history, it has contributed millions to the Tiverton community and equally important, has provided meaningful employment for hundreds of Aquidneck Island residents. The continued vibrancy of both gaming and entertainment venues should be of paramount concern to all of us as we seek to preserve – and one day enhance – the state's third largest source of revenue.

I hope you will consider the position of the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce in your deliberations, and I remain at your disposal to provide further information concerning our support, if required.

Sincerely,

Erin L. Donovan-Boyle

Erin Donovan-Boyle
Executive Director
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

Cc: K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Christopher Blazejewski, Majority Leader